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Tall Jalul

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Fig. 16. Tell Safut, wall and buttress wall in area L

of the four-room building. He described it as having been set into the dry moat north of the inset/offset wall. The 1999 project located a similar, damaged structure to the east of Glueck's. It is cut into virgin soil and covered by the red mud around the four-room structure, thus predating it. The thin wall at the southeastern corner of the site may be a mud-brick capping on the external glacis, similar to the capping in the area surrounding the four-room building.

A hearth lying on the external glacis was identified east of the settlement and may have been in use after the inset/offset wall was abandoned. Mud-brick walls that may be part of this extramural settlement were identified to the south of the settlement, suggesting Tell el-Kheleifeh is much larger than traditionally thought. This phase is the latest ancient occupation identified. Initial analysis of the pottery identifies nothing earlier than the seventh century or later than the sixth century B.C.

Tell Safut. Donald Wimmer, Seton Hall University, reports:

A ninth season of fieldwork was conducted at Tell Safut, the focus of a joint venture between Seton Hall University and the DAJ since 1982. A consolidation program was initiated, and new installations were uncovered at the foot of the site. At the end of the season, Tell Safut was designated a Jordanian national heritage site.

Excavations revealed that the slopes of the tell were not used solely for terrace farming, as previously thought. Excavations in 1995 had exposed architectural complexes spread halfway down the side of the tell, and fieldwork in the 1999 season

indicated that the south and east sides of the lower slopes were occupied to at least 5 m below the level of the present highway. The lower terrace was explored at highway level, just east of the parking lot. In area L, excavations revealed a wall, measuring 20 m long and nearly 3 m deep, running east-west. The size and trim of the stones, particularly at the corners, are unusual for the site, as most other walls are constructed of much smaller stones. These dressed cornerstones measure ca. $1 \times 0.5 \times 0.5$ m and extend to a depth of six or more courses. Another wall (fig. 16) running ca. 10 m northward and a buttress wall were also uncovered here.

A long-range program of cleaning and site consolidation was initiated in the 1999 season with the support of ACOR and the DAJ. Naif Zaben began consolidation in L.3, where ancient plaster adheres to the Iron II/Persian walls, and continued after the field season to preserve walls selected from a prioritized list.

Tall Jalul. Randall W. Younker and David Merling, Andrews University, report:

Excavations were conducted at Tall Jalul near Madaba by Andrews University in consortium with the Madaba Plains Project in June and July 1999.

Excavations in field A, on the north side of the tell, were conducted in four squares. This was the area in which the Late Iron II (seventh century B.C.) tripartite building was found during the 1996 season. Excavations this season revealed part of a pavement of flagstones dating to the eighth century B.C. This pavement ran north under the north wall of the seventh-century tripartite building to the eighth-century B.C. wall that was found in 1992.

Further south, a small stretch of flagstones (possibly more of the pavement from the north) ran south to the corner of a building that also dated to the eighth century B.C. (Iron II). Below the eighth-century building were debris fills from the ninth and 10th centuries B.C. The 10th-century and earlier fills consisted of fine ashy lenses seen in previous seasons. They contained typical Iron I pottery including collar-rimmed jars, carinated bowls, and flanged cooking pots. Some EB, MB (Chocolate-on-White ware), and LB sherds (Mycenaean) were found in small quantities in these ashy lenses as well. The lenses appear to represent a post-Iron I occupational phase.

The most important finds in field B, the gate area on the east side of the tell, were in the threshold of what appears to be the inner gatehouse. The oldest phase dates to about the ninth century B.C. (Early Iron II) and includes two pylons of the gate chamber, the curb of the pavement that goes through the gate, and a few flagstones of the pavement. This entrance road is related to the lower approach road found to the north in 1992. The next major phase is a pavement of flagstones dated to the eighth century B.C. This entrance road goes through the area of the gate threshold and is related to the later phase of the outer gatehouse found in 1994. The next phase is a flagstone pavement dating to the Late Iron II, or the seventh and sixth centuries B.C. The final phase of the entrance road is a pavement that dates to the Late Iron II/Persian periods (sixth–fifth centuries B.C.).

A cave was uncovered in the floor of a building in field C, the area of the Late Iron II/Persian build-

ings. Collapsed roof debris of a Late Iron II/Persian building sealed the cave, and 14 skeletons were found crushed by debris inside the cave. It appears that the bodies were thrown into the cave after the individuals were killed, and debris was then thrown on top of them. The skeletons included five children, one baby, and seven adults. Late Iron II/Persian pottery, a figurine of a horse and rider, fragments of basalt vessels, and an iron axe were found in the debris in the cave. The corner of a Late Iron II/Persian period building was also found in field C. Some flagstones of the floor pavement were found in the northwest corner, and the pavement of an earlier Iron II floor was found at a lower level in this building.

Excavations in field D reached roof collapse and other fallen debris on top of a large Late Iron II/Persian period building. The building seems to have consisted of a number of rooms surrounding a central courtyard, and pillars apparently supported the ceiling of the building. A number of objects were found in this field including a small female plaque figurine and a Late Iron II seal depicting a winged griffin.

Tell Madaba. Timothy P. Harrison, University of Toronto, reports:

The 1999 Tell Madaba Archaeological Project (TMAP) field season focused on excavations for a second year in field B on the western slope of Tell Madaba, and continued efforts begun in 1998 to document the extensive archaeological sequence preserved on the tell's acropolis (fig. 17). The primary goal of the 1999 season was to gain a greater horizontal exposure of each



Fig. 17. Tell Madaba, field B excavations, with Late Byzantine structures in the foreground (field C) built against the outer face of the Iron Age fortification wall